

REMARKS

Claims 21 to 30 are added, and therefore claims 11 to 30 are now pending.

With respect to paragraph eight (8) of the Office Action, Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 13 to 15 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if the indefiniteness rejections are overcome and if the claims are rewritten in independent form. Since the indefiniteness rejections are overcome, as explained below, and since the "Kuroda" reference has been removed as a prior art reference, as explained below, the objections as to claims 13 to 15 is respectfully traversed, since claims 13 to 15 are allowable, as explained below.

With respect to paragraph two (2) and three (3) of the Office Action, Figures 6 and 3 were objected to for the reasons stated in the Office Action. Accordingly, the accompanying Replacement Sheets for Figures 3 and 6 fully reflect the corrections noted in the Office Action. Namely, Figure 6 now shows branch 51 and block 52, and the yes and no labels are in English, and Figure 3 now has labeled x and y axes. No new matter has been added. It is respectfully requested that the corrected drawings be approved and entered.

With respect to paragraph 7 of the Office Action, claims 11, 12 and 16 to 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Kuroda et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,363,311.

Accompanying this Amendment is a certified English translation of the underlying German priority application, namely DE 100 18 556.8, which has a filing date of April 14, 2000, which is before the July 3, 2000 filing date of the "Kuroda" reference. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the 102(e) anticipation rejection be withdrawn, so that claims 11 to 20 are allowable.

With respect to paragraph 5 of the Office Action, claims 11 to 20 were rejected as indefinite under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112.

While the indefiniteness rejections may not be agreed with, to facilitate matters, claims 11 and 19 have been rewritten to reflect the suggestions of the Office Action. It is therefore respectfully requested that the indefiniteness rejections be withdrawn as to claims 11 to 20.

New claims 21 to 30 do not add any new matter and are supported in the specification. Claims 21 to 30 depend from claim 11 and are therefore allowable at least for the same reasons as claim 11.

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Response To Office Action of 06/05/03

Accordingly, claims 11 to 30 are allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that the objections and rejections have been obviated, and that claims 11 to 30 are allowable. It is therefore respectfully requested that the objections and rejections be withdrawn, and that the present application issue as early as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

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